



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: ENGLISH	JANUARY 2023-24
QUESTION BANK	A SLUMBER DID MY SPIRIT SEAL- William Wordsworth	POEM

Summary

This eight-line poem is about the death of a loved one. The poet is grieved and troubled. But he realizes the reality of life after her death. He feels a great peace. He is contented as the passing of time will no longer affect her. The poet says that his loved one is no more in the world. She has gone into deep slumber. Now the earthly movements will not affect her. She can neither see nor feel the worldly affairs. She is in peace and has become part of nature.

Answer the following questions:

- "A slumber did my spirit seal," says the poet. That is, a deep sleep 'closed off his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one's death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?
Ans. The poet was shocked on the death of his beloved. He was very sad. He feels bitter grief. But after some realisation, he feels a great peace. He is contented that the passing of time will no longer affect her. She is in peace and has become part of nature.
- The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?
Ans. The poet's beloved is dead. Initially, the poet was too sad to think of anything. Then he realized that the beloved is now unaffected by the passing time. The line that could not feel the touch of earthly years says this.
- How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a 'heaven')? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?
Ans. The poet imagines her to be in peace after death. She has gone in a deep sleep away from all the worldly affairs. Now the passing of time will have no effect on her. She is now part of nature. The lines are:
'No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees'

Reference-to-Context Question

Read the following stanza carefully and choose the correct option.

- A slumber did my spirit seal
I had no human fears.
She seemed a thing that could not feel*

The touch of earthly years.

- (i) A slumber did my spirit seal means that
- (a) metaphorical deep sleep had closed off the poet's mind
 - (b) he was feeling a deep calm as if in a deep sleep
 - (c) he had no fear of death now
 - (d) he had woken up now to a bitter reality

Ans: (a) metaphorical deep sleep had closed off the poet's mind

- (ii) The realization of truth about death makes the poet feel
- a) troubled
 - b) at peace with himself
 - (c) agonized
 - (d) hopeless

Ans: b) at peace with himself

- (iii). Who is 'She'?
- a) the poet does not disclose
 - b) the poet's daughter
 - c) the poet's beloved
 - (d) a mystery girl named Lucy
- Ans. d) a mystery girl named Lucy

- (iv) That she could no longer 'feel the touch of earthly years' means
- a) the girl was full of life and vigour when alive
 - b) she would now be untouched by earthly fears
 - c) she was unresponsive and motionless now
 - d) both (i) and (ii)
- Ans. d) both (i) and (ii)

- (v) The figure of speech in line 1 is
- a) personification
 - b) irony
 - c) metaphor
 - d) imagery
- Ans. c) metaphor

2. *No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.*

- a) The poetic device in the last two lines is
Ans. enjambment
- b) 'Earth's diurnal course' means
Ans. earth's daily rotation on its axis
- (c) The poet mentions earth's motion to signify that
Ans. the dear departed will become one with nature

- (d) Which figure of speech has been used in last two lines?
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Ans. Imagery

(e) The central idea of the poem is to

Ans. dwell on the reality of life and death

Short Answer Questions

1. What changes did the sleep bring in the poet's feelings?

Ans. The poet was very sad on his beloved's death. He was shocked. But the sleep brought peace to his mind. He realized that his beloved had become part of nature and would always remain around him.

2. What is the central theme of the poem?

Ans. The poet wants to convey the idea that death separates our loved ones from us, but they always remain around us in the form of nature. We should not be grief-stricken at the death.

3. "She seemed a thing that could not feel the touch of earthly years." Who is 'she'? Why could she not feel the touch of earthly years?

Ans. 'She' stands for the beloved of the poet. The poet is shocked on her death. He says that time will have no effect on her. She is beyond all earthly affairs. He is contented that at least now she is happy.

4. "No motion has she now, no force." Who is 'she'? Why is 'she' motionless? What does it show about the poet's state of mind?

Ans. 'She' stands for the beloved of the poet. She is dead. The poet feels that she had become part of nature. She is in peace. There is no motion and force. The poet is in a disturbed state of mind.

5. 'Rolled round in earth's diurnal course.' Explain.

Ans. The earth's revolution around the sun is called earth's diurnal course. The poet's beloved has become part of nature and she will also revolve along with the earth. The poet is satisfied that her beloved is in peace.

Long Answer Questions

1. How does the poet reveal that Lucy is dead without using the words 'death' or 'dead'? What, according to him, has happened to Lucy after her death?

Ans. Though the poet does not use the words 'death' or 'dead' for Lucy, yet he is able to convey very clearly that Lucy is no longer alive. He writes that Lucy has lost all force and strength; she has become absolutely inert and motionless. Her body has lost all activity. The young girl is also deprived of her senses like that of hearing or seeing. He says that her body has integrated itself with the earth. She has become as inseparable from the earth as stones, rocks, or trees. Like them, she rolls with the earth as it rotates on its axis. The idea that she still exists as a part of the earth soothes the mind of the poet who does not shed tears or cry over her death.

2. How did Lucy's death affect the poet? What does it reveal about his attitude towards her?

Ans. The poet remarks that he had become unaware of the realities of life when he was under the spell of Lucy's love. He felt as if he was under some spell, and this seemed to have clouded his sense of reasoning. He felt Lucy was not subject to the consequences of time and the aging process. He did not realise she would one day be conquered by death. For him, she had attained the status of a supernatural being - a goddess or a deity beyond worldly suffering. Such was the poet's intensity of love for the girl that he was blind to the hard fact of life that everybody who is born has to ultimately die. Death, however, leaves her unable to perform any physical activity. Since born has so a tea or her death, the poet feels that in her death his beloved Lucy has become a part of Nature. She is now under the surface of the earth and revolving along with it on its path. He tells us that like other stones, rocks and trees, she also revolves with the earth now.